

The Bloomfield Gazette.

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Knowledge and wisdom, far from being one, have oftentimes no connection. Knowledge dwells
In heads replete with thoughts of other men; Wisdom in minds attentive to their own.—COWPER.

FORTNIGHTLY.

VOL. I. NO. 8.

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1872.

FIVE CENTS.

SECOND LOVE.

No more through halls deserted, vainly calling
Upon the lost, shall wailing night-wind roam;
No more the hopeless grief my soul enrapturing
Thy solitude shall nurse, my lonely home.

A joyous presence shall disperse the sadness
That from the grave, deep mourning o'er thee falls;
And the sweet stranger, Hope, and innocent gladness,
Shall chase the spectral shadows from thy walls.

The current of my soul, no longer frozen
To all below, leaps to the sunbeam forth
Of a successful love; my newly-chosen
Shall reunite me to my kindred earth.

For woman's voice in measures sweetly thrilling,
Hath o'er my reawakened senses stole,
And dreams of wedded bliss once more are filling
The late-born, haunted chambers of my soul.

And they are haunted still; to memory's aidling
Thou com'st, thou'rt there in thy accustomed
seat,
My lost, my sepulcher'd! whose mock upbraiding,
Yet loving gaze, my spirit shrinks to meet.

Then, at of yore, when from the world retreating,
I to the friends, blest and happy then,
Brought, for the healing of thy tender greeting,
A spirit, chafed by intercourse with men.

No longer to oppose their base designing,
A vexed and galled combatant I strove,
But yielded, on that faithful heart reclining,
To the pure savior of its guileless love.

Why shrink I? for this long-dissolved communion
Did I not yearn as but the true heart may,
And for a final and a blessed reunion,
Through wasting years a ceaseless mourner pray?

I have not wronged thee, by the approval dwelling
Light upon that shadowy lip and brow;
And by the vain and restless yearning, swelling
Throughout my laboring spirit even now.

Alas! dead vision, wrong to reawaken
The sorrow that may never more depart;
I am again the lonely, forsaken,
With but one image shrouded in my heart.

Brooklyn, Dec. 4, 1872. *Regina E. P. B.*

OCEAN MUSINGS.

BY THE OLD COMMODORE.

How cheery are the mariners,
Those dwellers of the sea,
Their hearts are like the yeasty wave,
So bounding and so free.

Their vessels as the storm-bird whirled
In circles round the mast,
And sing when deep in foam the ship
Plunges onward to the blast.—SCOTT.

THERE is no life so adventurous or so
romantic as the life of the mariner; whether
forcing his way through the frozen
icebergs of the North, or roaming through
the fairy isles of the Pacific, there is a
chain that binds him to his ocean home.

Thus thinks the Old Commodore, when
looking over his log-book, he recalls the
scenes of early youth, when, in life's
prime, he roamed o'er the ocean, and
wishes he was young again. But he must
not morose, for an old sailor's morose
would have about as much effect as a dose
of theology on a New York Alderman;
and so he will pipe all hands upon deck,
and begin his yarn.

A WHALING SCENE OFF THE COAST OF JAPAN.

It was on a bright and smiling morn, all
nature looked gay; the boundless ocean
slept as an unwearied child—Neptune had
withdrawn his wrath, and all around was
sunshine and joy. Every sail was set, and a
gentle breeze was wafting us along. While
encompassed under the weather rail and think-
ing of home and loved ones, I was dis-
turbed in my reveries by the exciting cry
of "There she blows." We all sprang to
our feet, and, looking over the bow, espied
a huge sperm whale on our lee bow, send-
ing his signal heavenward. We ran our
ship as high to him as we could, and hove
to. The whale settled in the water in
search of food, and they will sometimes
stay an hour under before they will come
up to breathe.

"Stand by your boats," cried the Cap-
tain. In an instant all was done, and the
boats lowered in the water as softly as pos-
sible. We hoisted our boat sails and pro-
ceeded to the spot where he went down, so
as to be ready for him when he came up.

We had not waited long before he came
up, blowing over us an ocean of foam. He
was a noble fellow. The chief mate being
nearest, darted and fastened two harpoons
in him. The whale threw his body high
in the air and disappeared beneath the
blue wave; holding on the line too tight,
the iron drew. In a few moments he
came up again, and I, being nearest, ran
my boat close on his back, planted two
harpoons solid in him. As good luck
would have it, he never made the least
motion; if he had, he would have knocked
us into a thousand pieces. Off he bounded
at the rate of twenty knots an hour, and
going so swift our iron also drew. The
third mate pulled up and fastened, but met
with the same luck. The chief mate then
fastened again; the whale bounded, taking
all his life but one fluke; we bent on
ours, but he soon had that. The third mate
then bent on his, and the monster went
off, taking our three flukes with him. Being
under water nearly half a mile, we lost
sight of him for nearly an hour, when we
saw him to the windward, running very
swiftly. We pulled after him for nearly
two hours before we came up to him, and

running on him head and head, put two
irons, a lance and a drug in him (a drug is
a piece of wood about a foot square with a
rope in the centre), to check his speed,
but it did not seem to have much effect.
The other boats put several irons and
drugs in him, when he bounded, and we
lost sight of him. It being now near sun-
set, and having chased and fought him for
nearly eight hours, and supposing he had
died under water from the length of time
we missed him, we proceeded to our ship,
when the man at the mast head sang out
he was close to us, and sure enough he
was; the drugs, irons and lances had cooled
his ardor. The Captain sent a spare boat
and line to us, and going up to him drove
two irons solid to the hitches. "Starn
all," was the cry, for a certain contraction
of his muscles showed he meant mischief.
We narrowly escaped a broadside. I
sprang forward and gave him with a long
lance his death wound. He gave up to die
in solemn silence, for when a whale
fin is conquered, he will die like a
warrior to the stake. I churned him up
for a few moments and then sternal all.
He looked like a huge mountain on the
waters; the thick streams of blood as they
flowed from his nostrils dyed the surround-
ing waters; the sun of his life was almost
set; the ocean was to be his heir; he
turned his head to the setting sun as if he
thought his future was in that glorious
orb. For if there is a deity animals wor-
ship, it appears to me the sun is regarded
by the whale as a God; for in his death
struggle his eye is always fixed on it, and
his last gasp is spent in terrific bounds
towards it. The sun had sunk behind the
horizon, and as the last tint had streaked
the wave, his body floated a lifeless mass
on the ocean. We soon had him along-
side, and securing him with a fuke chain
to our sampson posts forward, we, poor
weary whalersmen, partook of our humble
meal, and were soon asleep, dreaming of
the monsters of the deep. This was the
hardest work I ever had. The next morn-
ing we cut him in, and he yielded us 149
barrels oil—49 barrels we made from his
head alone. Only fancy what an enor-
mous head he must have had, and teeth to
match it. Some of them were nine inches
long. It must be supposed that a whale-
man was afraid sometimes of encountering
these huge animals, but the exciting scenes
around him, the shouts of the crews, the
steering and pulling, the blood and the
foam, the terrible agonies of the noble
animal, when a lucky lance pierces his
vitals, give him a cool and steady eye and
heart. Sometimes a whale in his fury will
chew up men and boats, and everything in
his way, but that does not deter the bold
mariner; he will still pursue him, to die
or conquer. The right whale is the largest;
some have been taken that have made over
200 barrels oil. The Old Commodore
spoke a vessel off Alaska, who captured
two, which stowed down 448 barrels, and
the oil is not so valuable as that of the
sperm whale, but they are more numerous.
The right whale when harpooned will make
a noise like the roaring of a bull, which
can be heard a long distance, but the
sperm whale is mute. The passage down
a sperm whale's throat is large enough to
swallow a calf, but a right whale could
hardly force down an egg. A right whale's
tongue sometimes will make ten or fifteen
barrels oil, but a sperm whale has one
only a few inches long. The instinct of a
whale is wonderful in finding his way
through the trackless ocean. We took a
whale once that was harpooned off the
Cape De Verd Islands, Atlantic ocean, in
the Pacific, off the Navigator Islands,
nearly 20,000 miles distant. We knew this
by the marks of the old harpoon re-
maining in him. The whales have regular
pasture ground; sometimes they will be
found off Alaska, on Japan, and on the
off shore ground of South America. The
whale nurses its young like a cow, and it
is a very interesting sight to see a school
of cow-whales and their little calves sport-
ing on the blue waters like so many kittens.
But half cannot be told. It would repay
any one to spend three or four years to see
the wonders of old ocean.

Eight bells are striking, the Old Com-
modore's watch on deck is over, so he
will turn in his hammock wishing many
pleasant dreams to the readers of the
GAZETTE.

Observations in Switzerland.

The country reminded me frequently of
the regions lying between the Hudson and
Housatonic Rivers. The mountains are
not so high as I had anticipated, and the
valleys were often vastly more extended.
In some instances extensive plains ap-
peared.

The country is highly cultivated. The
same grasses and grains, and the same
fruits and forest-trees appeared; fields of
potatoes were now in bloom; corn-fields
were less frequent than with us. The
people were in the height of haying. I
saw no mowing-machines, no reaping-ma-
chines, all the work was done with the
old-fashioned scythe and sickle. The
women work in the fields as well as the
men. In one instance I saw a woman
mowing. Though the men usually do the
heaviest part of the work.

The people do not live so uniformly in
villages as in Germany. Houses were

more generally distributed along the high-
ways, and herds of cattle, sheep, and
goats were often seen pasturing in the
open fields. This is scarcely ever seen in
Germany. These animals are kept uni-
formly housed in yards and stables, both
in summer and winter.—Dr. VAIL.

OCCUPATION AND HEALTH.

ITS RELATION TO LIFE INSURANCE.

THAT there are healthy and unhealthy
occupations is known to all classes in so-
ciety. What they really are, is, however,
not so well understood. It is the duty of
life insurance companies to ascertain what
are healthy and unhealthy businesses. It
is the work of the actuaries to clearly set
forth what the rate of mortality in each
occupation is, so far as that rate can be
properly obtained. Considerable attention
has been given to this subject in recent
years, and we now know pretty clearly and
definitely what occupations are attended
with a high rate of mortality.

Taking the census returns of Great
Britain, giving the various occupations of
the whole people, and the death rate
amongst those from 25 to 65 years of age,
tables of mortality have been prepared
setting forth the average deaths, per 1,000
persons living, in each occupation.

The returns of Friendly Benefit Soci-
eties forms a similar table which varies so
little from the other as to be only con-
firmatory of it.

The following is the table referred to:

Church of England Clergy	10.01
Nonconformist "	10.01
Roman Catholic "	12.7
Physicians	12.6
Surgeons and Apothecaries	13.7
Barristers at Law	10.9
Attorneys	16.2
Provision Curers	16.8
Butchers	17.4
Poulterers	21.1
Fishmongers	17.4
Iron Miners	14.7
Coal "	14.8
Fin "	16.1
Lead "	20.3
Copper "	24.7
Iron Manufacturers	12.7
Paper "	13
Flax "	13.1
Nail "	13.2
Brass "	13.9
Glass "	15.8
Copper "	16.3
Lead "	19.3
Blacksmiths	19.7
White Smiths	16.8
Coppersmiths	17.1
Plumbers	16.3
Railroad Officers	14.3
Day Laborers	15.2
Engine Drivers	16.3
Domestic Servants	7.9
" Grooms	9.5
" Coachmen	14.7
" General Servants	13.6
Beer Sellers	20.6
Wine Merchants	20.6
Licensed Spirit Retailers	23.9
Inn and Hotel Keepers	26.8

It will thus be seen that the lowest death-
rate occurs amongst "Domestic Garden-
ers," i. e. gardeners who reside in the
houses of their employers, and are thus
well cared for and well fed. The very
highest death-rate is amongst hotel keep-
ers, though having little or nothing
of any kind of labor to perform—living at
their ease, and partaking of the best food,
yet die off at nearly quadruple the rate of
domestic gardeners. The table certainly
presents facts of the utmost importance
as to the influence of drinks and stimu-
lants upon health. In every one of the
different classes of drink-dealers, the mor-
tality, it will be observed, is very high,
being lowest for beer sellers. Inn keepers
and hotel keepers appear as the least
healthy. In no other class of results is
such a high death-rate presented as
amongst the various occupations con-
nected with drinks and stimulants.

Amongst professional gentlemen the
lowest death rate is that prevailing in the
ranks of the clergy. The Church of Eng-
land and all other Protestant ministers die
at a very little over 10 per 1,000 of all liv-
ing at ages varying from 25 to 65 years,
the Roman Catholic clergy die at the rate
of 15.7 per 1,000 of their class. As a rule,
they are not so comfortably cared for as
Protestant ministers. The kindly hand of
wife and child also in the hour of sickness
is more potent in restorative influences
than the hands of the strangers, be the lat-
ter ever so friendly and assiduous in their
attentions. These circumstances will fully
account for the somewhat high death-rate
amongst Catholic clergy.

It is remarkable, too, that in the medi-
cal profession, while physicians die at the
rate of 12.6 per 1,000, the surgeons and
apothecaries die at a rate of 18.7 per 1,000.
The two ranks of physicians and surgeons
are kept very distinct in England. The
most eminent surgeon is merely styled
"Mr.," the title "Dr." being only ap-
plied to physicians. As a rule, surgeons
are more exposed to the various causes of
death than physicians, and the result is
seen in the higher rate of mortality
amongst them.

Quite as remarkable is the mortality in
the legal profession. The positions of
attorney and barrister, like that of phy-
sician and surgeon, are quite distinct in the
United Kingdom. The attorney does all

the preparatory work in a suit, and lays
the whole of it before the barrister. The
barrister pleads in the open court, and
does all public work in conducting the
case. The heavy, plodding, wearying of
fact-work, in close rooms, often, is thus
done by the attorney; the lighter and
more agreeable work by the barrister.
The consequence is that barristers die at
the rate of 10.9 to the 1,000—while the
attorneys die at the rate of 16.2 per 1,000.

Amongst all the workers in metals it
will be observed that copper miners die off
quickest; copper and lead manufacturers
faster than those employed in any other
manufacture; and coppersmiths somewhat
in excess of any other smiths. This is the
natural result of the deleterious influence
of copper on the health of the human
body.

Facts like these have led English Life
Insurance Companies to be very cautious
about insuring men engaged in certain oc-
cupations. There is hardly any respect-
able company amongst them now that will
at all insure the lives of any class of liquor
dealers. They established, some years
ago, themselves, "The Licensed Victual-
lers' Life Insurance Company," to meet this
want, fancying their lives as good as any
others. The death-rate was so great and
the claims so many—none but drink-sellers
being insured by the company—that in a
few years it became bankrupt and had to
be "wound up" in the Court of Chan-
cery.

All persons engaged in mining occupa-
tions are, of course, charged extra for the
risks. We think that, as these results of
occupation upon health and longevity come
to be more carefully analyzed and tabu-
lated, the various life insurance companies
must come to insure the different classes at
various rates, corresponding to the mor-
tality. It would, at least, be an interesting
work just now for any actuary to engage
in the preparation of equitable tables of
rates, without profits, insuring all classes
of lives according to the rate of mortality
known to prevail amongst their ranks, ac-
cording to occupation. ROSEVILLE.

Nov. 20, 1872.

PRAYER.

SINCE the publication of Prof. Tyndal's
ideas on this subject, it has been largely
discussed by many eminent men who
have held very different opinions, and yet
I think that, aside from the most radical
pro and cons, these opinions are not so
widely apart as many people believe. That
these earnest thinkers have differed more
in the expression of their sentiments, than
in the sentiments themselves. It has been,
and is, too much a repetition of the history
of battles between Philosophy and Religion
in times past.

One man says, "I look about me, and
I see on all sides the evidence of some su-
pernatural Power. I cannot believe that
this world, with its myriad beauties, its
diversified surfaces, its position in space,
its relation to other bodies, like it, and yet
unlike, its evidence of being governed by
fixed, wise, and unalterable laws, was the
result of chance. I must believe that back
of all this is some power greater than all,
and I will call that power God." Another
man, equally an earnest seeker after truth,
reasoning in much the same way, says,
"I will call the source of all this 'Nature,'
and they wage long and bitter battles of
words, neither seeing that the only mate-
rial (?) difference between them is simply
what name shall represent their ideas of
the Supernatural.

Let us look at this subject, "the phys-
ical power of prayer" (Tyndal), from one
stand-point only (for we have no room now
to discuss the matter from more than one).

"It comforts," says the one side, "be-
cause it brings the mind into a higher
state, and because its reflex action on the
mind is beneficial; but it does not com-
fort because God answers in any way." To
a part of this *Amen*, but only a part;
and can the man who responds to the first
clause accept the second also? Let us see!

Here is a man who has become involved
in debt. Responsible parties in Boston
owe him largely, and such sums are due
before the maturity of his own liabilities,
as shall make him secure. Then comes
fire, and bankruptcy stares him in the
face. He is much excited, "nervous,"
and half-crazed, cannot do or think for
the best. He resorts to prayer, and asks
of the Friend in whom he has perfect con-
fidence for help. And with what result?
His mind, which was working in his ex-
citement so inharmoniously, is now calmed,
and he is enabled to think fairly, till he
sees his way through his perplexities.

"But," says our critical reader, "this,
certainly, came from the reflex action on
his mind." Of course it did. But was it
any the less, therefore, an answer to his
prayer? Must God, in order to have
answered his petition, have placed a suf-
ficient sum on the chair before his kneeling
form to meet his wants, so that all he had
to do on opening his eyes was to pocket
the money, and go and pay his debts?

We know the beneficial effect of prayer
in sickness, sometimes. But when? Not
when the nature of the malady is such

that every excitement is detrimental, if in
this case prayer be an excitant; and prayer
tends, to excite when it calls up to the
mind, dangers ethereal, of the sick man,
the dangers of future punishment, or leads
him to thinking of past misdeeds, or
brings the proximity of death vividly be-
fore his mind. Here, whether it be the
prayer of a friend by his bedside, or the
ravings of the terror-stricken wretch him-
self, it is and can be only detrimental phys-
ically. But on the other hand, when the
righteous man communes with his Infi-
nite Friend, whom he loves and trusts, the
testimony of every physician, I think, will
bear me out in the assertion that its in-
fluence is always salutary. In short, the
influence of prayer in health is salutary
in just so far as it tends to calm and com-
pose the mind of the invalid. If the hospi-
tal experiment proposed by Tyndal
should be tried (though how a man of his
ability and fairness could propose a thing
so obviously unfeasible, puzzles me!) we
should not expect very materially different
results in the ward which was the subject
of special prayer, from the other. Be-
cause we should not expect that God would
depart from the usual order of things,
or, in other words, that men of equally
good constitutions, under equally good (or
poor) treatment, would present a marked-
ly different death-rate, just to convince one
man, or a few men, that God does answer
prayer. But if we could use one ward for
those alone who strove so to live that they
need not fear to die—be they Protestant,
Catholic or Jewish—we should expect the
beneficial effect of prayer, in just the
way above stated, to be marked. "Reflex
action, again." Yes, but none the less an
answer to prayer, because it comes through
the law that any composure mentally, is
conducive to health physically.

An old Scotch boatman was rowing two
clergymen across a Scottish loch—one a
large, strong man, the other small. In
the middle of the loch a squall arose which
threatened to swamp their little craft.

"Let us pray," said one of the clergy-
men. "Well," said the old boatman, "the
little man may pray, but the big man must
take an oar." They might have prayed
without work till they drowned, or "the
big man" might, by the excited, hurried
movements caused by fear, have hastened
the calamity he sought to avert. The
prayer that should calm him so that he
could do his part of the duties of manag-
ing the boat rightly was certainly answered
in this calamity which brought safety with
it. And this was "reflex action," too,
and just the idea I would implant as firmly
in your mind as it is in my own is this,
that one way of answering prayer is through
this "reflex action" (will accept this
term) and that it is none the less answered
by God because he takes this, his own
way to do it.

Does any man contend that God did not
make the world because it bears evidence
of having been for untold ages assuming
its present form through the working of
natural laws?

Does it lower our ideas of the Deity if
we believe "ex nihilo nihil fit"? Is our
idea of the Supreme Being lower than was
that of the ancients, who thought the earth
rested on the shoulders of a giant, who
stood on a Turtle, who in turn stood on a
rock, because we know that the world re-
sides its relative position in space by fixed
laws which govern matter everywhere?

Nor are our conceptions of a "prayer-
hearing God" in any degree belittled if
we find that he is governed, in one of his
ways of answering prayer, by a law which
He himself has made. Personally I feel
that I owe my thanks to Prof. Tyndal,
since he has first called me to notice and
helped me to comprehend partially another
of the "How's" through which God
works. *Montclair, Nov. 23d, 1872.*

MONTCLAIR LECTURES.

THE third Historical Lecture of the
Young Men's Christian Association course
was opened by Mr. Harrison with mention
of the opinion which scholars held a few
years ago of Herodotus; looking at him
as a sort of Baron Munchausen on account
of what he wrote about the "Lake Dwell-
ers," and other strange incidents which
of late years we are proving true, and
which he wrote about 484 B. C. One
which was long unbelieved, about the
camels of Xerxes being attacked by lions
on his entrance into Europe, is now shown
to be plausible, the remains of lions being
found in these ancient caves of Europe.

The greater part of the time this even-
ing was devoted to the "Geographical
Distribution of Races," and it was treated
by the speaker with great clearness.

Mr. Harrison made mention of one fact
which, in the opinion of many, he could
have learned from the Bible, viz., That it
is very evident and agreed upon by most
scholars that all races had in by-gone ages
one common origin. Their dwelling places
the well-known Maller places near the
centre of Asia, on land elevated 15,000
feet above the sea, and named it Pomare,
"The roof of the world." Of the He-
brew language he said—that Scripture it-
self precludes the possibility of its being
the first tongue. Toward the close he
said that Holy Rome, 2,800 years ago, was

not Roman, but German; and the account
of the conquest he promised in his next
CONTRIBUTOR.

CHICAGO CORRESPONDENCE.

MISSISS. EDITORS: I am pleased to no-
tice the great improvement in the appear-
ance of the GAZETTE, and feel certain the
management will receive credit for having
made a move in the proper direction.

Since my last communication, the horse
distemper has almost forsaken the city,
and the various lines of street travel have
resumed operations. The reappearance of
dodkin in his proper sphere has had an
enlivening effect on all kinds of business,
and has forced the impetuous on into an
unmerited oblivion. The theatrical man-
agers are rejoicing in the hope of replen-
ished exchequers by reason of the resump-
tion of street-car travel, and feel assured
of an increased attendance of the public.

Navigation has closed for the year. Cold
weather came on so unexpectedly, and
with such severity, that many sad cases of
shipwreck have occurred on the lake. A
large fleet of vessels generally make Chi-
cago their winter quarters, and usually ar-
rive before extreme cold weather comes
on. This Fall numbers of them have
been compelled to stop at Milwaukee and
other points, and not a few have carried
their crews to the bottom of the lake.

Among the great improvements in op-
erations here, I may mention as one of
the most important, the new public library.
This enterprise is destined to occupy a
conspicuous place in the reputation of the
city, and will bear ample testimony to the
liberal spirit that characterizes the public
officials of Chicago. The contribution of
books from England is large, and con-
sists of many works of rare value. The
reading room will be plentifully supplied
with the periodicals of this country and
Europe. Eight different languages will be
represented, and there will be but few of
the very cosmopolitan inhabitants of Chi-
cago but can find there a journal in their
own language. On the 7th of last month,
the legislature passed a law providing a
Library Fund of one-fifth of a mill on all
the taxable property of the city. This
would give the handsome amount of
\$60,000 a year at present valuation, and
be subject to indefinite increase. An in-
stitution of this character is one of the
most powerful moral levers that can be ap-
plied to the affairs of men, and yields a
potent influence where all other appliances
fail. Our churches may do much to ele-
vate the standard of morals, but to the
education of the masses must be referred
the momentous question of the ultimate
welfare of our Great Republic.

A few evenings since a large number of
our most distinguished citizens gave a
banquet in honor of the American Minis-
ter to France, the Hon. E. B. Washburn,
of this State. It was an occasion of much
real pleasure, and the presence of such
men as John A. Logan, Richard Oglesby,
and Norman B. Judd, gave additional zest
to the entertainment. Hon. Richard Og-
lesby, the New Governor elect of Illinois,
will, in all probability, succeed Lyman
Trumbull in the United States Senate.

He served with distinction in many im-
portant campaigns during the war, and
will carry to his high office the merits of a
statesman. E. C.

Nov. 27, 1872.

EDUCATIONAL.

MISSISS. EDITORS: In your issue of Oc-
tober 19th on the question "Are our Pub-
lic Schools a Failure?" many important
and valuable hints are thrown out on the
subject of Education. Among the com-
plaints asserted to have been made against
them is this—"that some insist that ob-
ject-teaching, natural science, and the like,
should occupy the most prominent place in
the curriculum of studies."

Perhaps I am ignorant on the subject,
but I do not know any friend of Education
who takes so broad a ground as this. At
least, for one, I should oppose it. I do
believe, however, there are little schemes
and devices which might be employed to
relieve the tedium and dryness even of
such studies as Arithmetic, Grammar, and
Geography. Nor do I believe that the
subject of Natural Science, in any of its
branches, is to be made "to occupy the
most prominent place in the curriculum of
studies."

That for which I contend is, that any
public or private school will be made more
interesting, instructive and profitable to
the scholars by introducing many of the
branches of Natural Science as means of
recreation not only, but as the indispensable
adjuncts to the general intelligence of the
scholars, and this, too, almost without the
scholars being aware of the teacher's in-
tention.

For example, suppose that, in some in-
terval that can be spared between recita-
tions, the teacher should call the attention
of the school or class, and say: Stand up
before me, James, and pointing to him,
say, there, scholars, is James and the house
he lives in. Do you know what his home
is made of? The reply, without dicta-
tion, at once probably would be in concert
of flesh and bones. Here the lesson will
close unless the teacher is familiar with

Physiology, when he can then go on and
say:

"The frame-work which supports this
house consists of 240 bones. Put this
down on your slates, scholars, and transfer
it to your memories for future use. Of
these 240 bones, the skull has 8, the face
14, under-jaw 32 (teeth), the ears 4 each,
root of the tongue, one. This comprises
the whole head above the upper joint of
the neck." This lesson may take five min-
utes. At the next, let him go on with the
other bones of the system, afterward with
the muscles, skin, etc., the covering of the
house. Then with the organs of sight,
hearing, etc. In one week's time the
scholars would know more of themselves
than perhaps they would gain in a month's
ordinary study of Physiology from books.

The teacher might make some appli-
cation of the subject, showing God's wisdom
and goodness in the formation of our phys-
ical frame.

This system might be carried with still
better results into the studies of Geology
and Mineralogy, etc., by the exhibition
of specimens presented to the eye.

Some may say, All this is very common
and simple. But the question is, Do our
children know them, and understand them?

I insist upon it, they ought to be familiar
with these natural objects which present
themselves continually to the eye. It will
enlarge their minds, make them intelligent
and give them subject of conversation
among themselves, and with those who are
older. It will take the place of that non-
sensical gabble and gossip so injurious
among the rising generation.

Seymour Easton.

FIRE.